

MEMORANDUM

DECLASSIFIED
PA/HO Department of State
E.O. 12958, as amended
August 6, 2007

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION/28538

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER *HK*
SUBJECT: Review of Nuclear Test Ban Policy

ACDA Director Smith recommended to me that we conduct a review of our policy and possible initiatives on an underground nuclear test ban for, inter alia, the following reasons:

- There has been a build-up of domestic and international pressures against nuclear testing and for a test ban.
- There will be extensive Congressional debate and hearings on the subject.
- Improvements over the past few years in our capability to verify an underground nuclear test ban merit review.
- We are capable of evaluating the relationship of SALT to various test ban options.

Pressures and expectations for a policy change might increase were it to become known that we are reviewing this subject.

On the other hand, the increasing interest in the subject, magnified by well-published (and somewhat exaggerated) progress in seismographic technology, suggests that the issue will not disappear and that now is the time to establish White House control. Moreover, technological improvements may be such that they foreshadow substantive developments in the nuclear test ban area.

Therefore, I believe we should inaugurate a study and have prepared a study directive (Tab A) taking the approach we used for SALT.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you approve inaugurating this review of our nuclear test ban policy.

APPROVE *HK* *for RW* DISAPPROVE _____ SEE ME _____

~~FOR SECRET~~